

decisions. It would insure that conservation agreements are binding on all parties to the agreement.

7. It would make recovery planning an inclusive process and would allow the Secretary to delegate to the states the development and implementation of recovery plans. Designation of critical habitat would become part of the recovery process. It would insure that recovery results in the delisting of species.

While I would personally prefer to make even more improvements in the ESA, I feel that these changes will be a good first start toward bringing back a common sense and reasonable approach to our federal government's efforts to recover species. I fully support protecting the rights of private property owners and believe that you can't protect wildlife unless you protect property owners. I also recognize that in order to achieve any goal, you have to take a first step. This is our first step toward Common Sense Protections for Endangered Species.

COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACT OF 1999

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 1999, legislation to combat trafficking in human beings, a form of modern day slavery. Thirty-four Members of Congress are original co-sponsors of this bill. I commend my colleagues for lending their bi-partisan support to this legislation, which seeks to combat in the United States and countries around the world one of the worst human rights violations of our time.

More than one million people, predominantly women and children, are trafficked around the world each year. U.S. Intelligence Agencies estimate that 45–50,000 women and children are trafficked annually into the United States, primarily from the Former Soviet Union and Southeast Asia.

Trafficking networks, dominated by organized criminal groups, lure or force victims into the industry using various schemes. Traffickers buy young girls from relatives, kidnap children from their homes, or allure women with false promises of earning money overseas as dancers, maids, factory workers, sales clerks or models. Traffickers then use tactics including rape, starvation, torture, extreme physical brutality and psychological abuse to force victims to work under slavery-like conditions as prostitutes, in sweatshops, or as domestic servants.

Trafficking in human beings is a multi-billion dollar industry that is growing at an alarming rate. Consequently, the United States must act now to combat all forms of trafficking and protect and assist trafficking victims. This legislation employs a domestic and international approach to this effort because we cannot stop trafficking into the United States if we do not address the root causes of this phenomenon in countries around the world.

The Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 1999 strengthens prosecution and enforcement tools against traffickers operating

in the United States and expands existing services to meet the needs of domestic trafficking victims. This legislation also works through our international affairs agencies to help other countries prevent trafficking, protect victims, and enforce their own anti-trafficking laws. The bill creates an Inter-Agency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, comprised of cabinet level members and chaired by the Secretary of State, and requires expanded coverage on trafficking in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Finally, this legislation establishes a humanitarian, non-immigrant visa classification for trafficking victims in the United States and gives the President discretionary authority to impose sanctions against countries and individuals involved in trafficking.

Please join me and my colleagues in supporting the Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 1999.

THE SITUATION IN ARMENIA

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am shocked and deeply saddened by the brutal assassinations of top Armenian officials this morning, as well as the continuing hostage crisis currently taking place in the Armenian Parliament. My heart goes out to the families of the victims and to all Armenians. We must not permit these senseless acts to hinder the progress made by Prime Minister Sarkisian and his late colleagues in furthering democracy in Armenia. In the face of these unspeakable atrocities, the United States must reaffirm its commitment to supporting the Republic of Armenia in her pursuit of a lasting democracy and enduring peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGRIBUSINESS MERGER MORATORIUM ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Agribusiness Merger Moratorium Act of 1999. I am honored to have Judiciary Committee Member TAMMY BALDWIN and my colleague on the Agriculture Committee, DAVID MINGE, join me as original cosponsors of this important legislation. Our legislation is very similar to the Senate legislation that was introduced recently by Senators WELLSTONE, DORGAN, HARKIN, and DASCHLE.

Unfortunately, the agriculture sector of our economy has experienced rapid consolidation, disrupting the competitive dynamic of the market place. Today, concentration is more prevalent than ever in agriculture as we have observed with the recent acquisitions of Continental Grain by Cargill and the Smithfield Foods merger with Murphy Family Farms. For example, if the proposed acquisition of Continental Grain by Cargill is allowed with the divestitures set forth in the proposed consent decree, Cargill will handle more than 25 percent of the all of the Nation's export markets.

To illustrate the degree of concentration in agriculture processing, in 1999, 80 percent of beef cattle are slaughtered by only four meat packers, 75 percent of sheep are processed by only four firms, and 60 percent of hogs are slaughtered by only four firms. At the same time concentration has been drastically increasing, a farmer's share of every food dollar spent decreased from 37 cents to 23 cents from 1980 to 1998.

The Agribusiness Merger Moratorium Act of 1999 is a short-term legislative response to the rapid consolidation that I have described. This legislation would establish an 18-month moratorium on mergers and acquisitions by large agribusinesses. It would create a commission to determine whether concentration in the agriculture industry has reached a point where market competition can no longer be counted on to get family farmers and ranchers a fair price for the products they produce.

The moratorium would apply to any proposed merger and acquisition that involves at least one firm with annual net revenues or assets of more than \$100 million and another firm with assets of at least \$10 million. Agricultural cooperatives would be exempted from this legislation.

Clearly, this legislation is only a short-term response. The long-term solution is enforcement and strengthening of our antitrust laws. But, with the current dire economic conditions farmers and ranchers across the United States are facing, we, as Federal lawmakers, must provide immediate action.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter the new millennium, it is ironic that Congress faces the same challenges our colleagues faced 100 years ago. To paraphrase one of North Dakota's favorite adopted sons, our Nation's 26th President Teddy Roosevelt, "We must carry a big stick to return fairness and freedom to the marketplace." The Agribusiness Merger Moratorium Act of 1999 is a step in that direction.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES PATRICK (PAT) GODWIN, SR.

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great North Carolinian, Mr. James Patrick (Pat) Godwin, Sr. Mr. Godwin recently received the Distinguished Service Award of the Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Pat has been a leader and advocate of scouting in my home state of North Carolina, and I am proud to call him my friend. He has touched many lives in our community through the generous support he gives to our young people.

Mr. Godwin is the owner of Godwin Manufacturing Inc. in Dunn, NC. His truck body manufacturing business began in his backyard in 1966 and is one of the largest truck body builders in the United States. He has been featured in two national publications, yet he remains a humble man who continues to serve his community through his church and other charitable organizations.

I am honored to join The Occoneechee Council in saluting Mr. Godwin for Exemplary Public Service and Lifelong Fidelity to the Scouting Creed of Service to the Community.